

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 OPIC-03 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 PC-01 AID-05 EURE-00 /072 W

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P R 041158Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1936

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PO

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS CIA PLANS COUP IN PORTUGAL

1. LISBON AFTERNOON DAILY A CAPITAL (MODERATE LEFT) REPRINTED
EXCERPTS MARCH 3 FROM SELF-PROCLAIMED MARXIST-LENINIST ONE-PAGE
STUDENT RAG CALLED "EXTRA," PUBLISHED IN WEST BERLIN, CHARGING
THAT THE "CIA IS PLANNING A COUP IN PORTUGAL BEFORE THE END OF
MARCH."

2. THIS CHARGE GIVEN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT. EXCERPTS RUNNING TO
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SIX COLUMNS APPEAR ON INSIDE PAGE.

3. AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI DESCRIBED CATEGORICALLY AS AN AGENT OF THE CIA. DITTO DCM OKUN.

4. IN ADDITION TO CHARGING THAT CIA IS PREPARING COUP EXTRA CHARGES THAT CIVIL WAR IS BEING PLANNED IN PORTUGAL IN COOPERATION WITH AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI, WEST GERMAN AMBASSADOR TO PORTUGAL, AND PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY, " WHICH RECEIVES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT FROM GERMAN SOCIALIST PARTY AS PART OF FRG'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE INSTALLATION OF A PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT FREE FROM COMMUNISM." CHARGES MADE THAT CIA IS PLANNING TO ELIMINATE OR KIDNAP BRIGADIER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO; THAT U.S. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS AND HEALTH SPECIALISTS "WHO WENT TO THE ALGARVE" ARE CIA AGENTS.

5. REPORTER FROM MORNING DIAIRO DE NOTICIAS (MODERATE SOCIALIST) TELEPHONED EVENINGMARCH 3 TO REQUEST A STATEMENT. AMBASSADOR ISSUED STATEMENT SAID "THE STORY IS A COMPLETE INVENTION." ANYONE WITH THE SLIGHTEST INTELLIGENCE WOULD KNOW THAT THE ACCUSATIONS WERE FABRICATED AND PLANTED BY THE EAST GERMAN COMMUNISTS. I HAVE NEVER WORKED FOR THE CIA, NOW OR IN THE PAST. THE CHARGES REPORTED IN THE PRESS ARE SO SELF-EVIDENTLY FALSE THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES THEM IS VERY NAIVE."

6. FRG AMBASSADOR FRITZ CASPARI QUOTED IN SAME STORY AS SAYING ALLEGATIONS "ARE ALL LIES." PAO'S STATEMENT "CATEGORICALLY DENYING" ALLEGATIONS AND CHARACTERIZING THEM AS "GROTESQUE" ALSO CARRIED.

7. COMMENT: A CAPITAL IS NORMALLY A MODERATELY LEFT, FAIRLY WELL-INFORMED AFTERNOON DAILY, WHICH IN THE PAST HAS TELEPHONED THE EMBASSY FOR COMMENT BEFORE RUNNING SUCH A SENSATIONAL STORY. MEMBER OF A CAPITAL EDITORIAL BOARD TELEPHONED EMBASSY MARCH 4 TO APOLOGIZE FOR STORY AND DISCLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT. COMPOSITION OF LISBON NEWSPAPERS IS SUCH THAT EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITY IS FREQUENTLY DIVIDED BETWEEN MODERATES AND RADICAL EXTREMISTS. BEST GUESS HERE IS THAT ONE OF THE LATTER SNEAKED STORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF MODERATE CHIEF EDITOR.

8. POUCHING COPIES OF ARTICLES TO DEPT. TODAY.
CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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